

Anthropology 160: Reconstructing Lost Civilizations

**Section 2 (21259) Spring 2017
San José State University
Department of Anthropology/ College of Social Sciences**

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Office Hours:	Tuesday 16:30-17:30 or by appointment
Class Days/Time:	Tuesday and Thursday 15:00- 16:15
Classroom:	Clark 204
Prerequisites:	Successful completion or currently attending a 100W course
GE/SJSU Studies Category:	This course satisfies Area R of SJSU Studies Earth and Environment.

Faculty Web Page and MYSJSU Messaging

Copies of the course materials such as the syllabus, major assignment handouts, and grades can be found on my faculty web page at <http://www.sjsu.edu/people/viviana.sanchezchopitea> and/or on [Canvas Learning Management System course login website](#) at <http://sjsu.instructure.com>. You are responsible for regularly checking with the messaging system through [MySJSU](#) at <http://my.sjsu.edu> (or other communication system as indicated by the instructor) to learn of any updates.

Course Description

The field of archaeology and the study of prehistory are as rich and diverse as they are compelling. This upper division course will explore the panorama of human development beginning with Neanderthal interactions with pre-modern humans, through civilization in the early Neolithic. We will explore the gradual development of social groups and the invention of agriculture, as well as the emergence of complex states. The archaeology of ancient civilizations, some familiar, others obscure, will be examined. Many of the latest

discoveries, theories, and controversies surrounding human origins, the peopling of the world, and the development of various civilizations will be discussed.

This course is as much about the practice of archaeology, its practitioners, and the political ramifications of research as it is about findings in the field. Archaeology is a lively scientific pursuit and current developments within the field will be highlighted. Although current theoretical frameworks and methodologies are integrated into the course, the chief focus is trained on establishing a broad understanding of human social and cultural development and the context for archaeological interpretation. The course is interdisciplinary in scope and will investigate how archaeologists use various scientific techniques to learn about the past and content will be complemented by critical analysis.

GE Learning Outcomes (GELO)

Upon successful completion of this program, students will be able to:

- GELO1 demonstrate an understanding of the methods and limits of scientific investigation;
- GELO2 distinguish science from pseudoscience; and
- GELO3 apply a scientific approach to answer questions about the earth and environment

In all CLO the core GE requirements of Information Literacy, Qualitative and Quantitative Reasoning, and Critical Thinking are addressed through particular assignments or parts of assignments.

Course Learning Outcome	Assessment Instrument	Basic Competency Measure
1-Demonstrate an understanding of the methods and limits of scientific investigation.	Writing exercises on particular topics focusing on underlying methods. Targeted exam questions.	Accurate identification of methods expressed in written assignments. 85% or higher reflects competence.
2-Distinguish science from pseudoscience.	Writing exercises and in-class discussions weighing validity of methods. Targeted exam questions.	Accurate identification of methods expressed in oral or written assignments. 85% or higher reflects competence.
3-Apply a scientific approach to answer questions about the earth and environment.	Writing exercises and in-class activities of cause-effect analysis. Targeted exam questions.	Correct application of developed concepts in written exercises and examinations. . 85% or higher reflects competence.

The Upper Division GE writing requirement is satisfied in this course through satisfactory completion of the 2500 word Term Paper and additional written exercises.

“Passage of the Writing Skills Test (WST) or ENGL/LLD 100A with a C or better (C-not accepted), and completion of Core General Education are prerequisite to all SJSU Studies courses. Completion of, or co-registration in, 100W is strongly recommended. A minimum aggregate GPA of 2.0 in GE Areas R, S, & V shall be required of all students.”

Course Learning Outcomes (CLO)

Upon successful completion of this course, students will be able to:

Interaction of science and technology:

- CLO1 Knowledge of the evolution of archaeological thought, and the role of key individuals in development of archaeology as a science.
- CLO2 Broad understanding of human evolutionary history since the emergence of our species and the critical issues and problems of evidence.
- CLO3 Understanding of the important role archaeology plays in modern nationalism, identity, and political ideology.

Differences between scientific, non-scientific, and pseudoscientific approaches:

- CLO4 Critical examination of pseudoscience, frauds, scientific racism, and extraordinary claims made concerning past civilizations and human evolution.
- CLO5 Scientific methods and philosophy contrasted to non-scientific approaches to the past.

Interaction of humans and the physical world:

- CLO6 Working knowledge regarding several ancient civilizations that have historically been the focus of archaeology and their interaction with the environment.
- CLO7 Investigation into the impact of human activity and culture on the prehistoric and historic environment.
- CLO8 Critical understanding of the major theories and intellectual frameworks concerning human adaptations, invention of agriculture, and the rise of complex states.

Application of science and technology:

- CLO9 Knowledge of scientific methods as applied in archaeology and the techniques used in modern archaeological contexts to generate new knowledge.
- CLO10 Students will develop critical thinking skills in assessing archaeological evidence.
- CLO11 Students will learn research skills applicable across academic disciplines.

Values and limitations of science and scientific inquiry:

- CLO12 Students will gain experience forming specifically testable hypotheses, recognizing research questions, and evaluating cases of research.
- CLO13 Students will learn of the interdisciplinary nature of modern archaeology.

Required Texts/Readings

Textbook

People of the Earth: An Introduction to World Prehistory. Brian Fagan, 2009. Prentice Hall. Fourteenth Edition (earlier editions acceptable). ISBN: 0205735673

Frauds, Myths and Mysteries. Kenneth Feder, 2010. McGraw Hill. Seventh Edition (earlier editions acceptable). ISBN: 007811697X

Other Readings

Supplementary course readings or handouts in PDF format will be available on the course Canvas page.

Course Requirements and Assignments

Success in this course is based on the expectation that students will spend, for each unit of credit, a minimum of 45 hours over the length of the course (normally 3 hours per unit per week with 1 of the hours used for lecture) for instruction or preparation/studying or course related activities including but not limited to internships, labs, clinical practica. Other course structures will have equivalent workload expectations as described in the syllabus.

NOTE that University policy F69-24, “Students should attend all meetings of their classes, not only because they are responsible for material discussed therein, but because active participation is frequently essential to insure maximum benefit for all members of the class. Attendance per se shall not be used as a criterion for grading.”

Course Assignments and Grading Policy

Students will be graded on the following assignments:

- Four Exams:

Conceptual understanding and application of knowledge is the principal objective of the course and will be targeted by assessment. Exams are multiple choice oriented. Objective questions are included to assess core content. The fourth exam will be your final examination scheduled according to the official University list (provided here on the Course Schedule Table). ***Failure to take the any exam will result in a failing grade regardless of other completed work*** (each exam = 50pts).

- A Term Paper:

A research paper (of 2300-2500 words, or about 8 pages double spaced of ORIGINAL work [**excluding quotes**]) including a reference section is required for this class. Details on the required guidelines for format and topics will be provided during the semester. Academic dishonesty, cheating or intentional plagiarism will result in an automatic grade of F (<http://www.sjsu.edu/senate/docs/F15-7.pdf>, **you are responsible for knowing the content of this document, no exceptions**).

The paper itself is worth 100 points. Additionally, a one page proposal (10 points), and citations draft, with at least 5 correctly formatted items, (10 points) are required components of this assignment, contributing to a total of 120 points.

Papers will not be accepted after the deadline or with a Turnitin score greater than 15%.

Failure to complete a term paper will result in a failing grade regardless of other completed work.

- Group Project:

Contribution to a group project will be assessed as part of your general grade. This assignment will consist of using a combination of applications including data entry, the use of basic statistics, mapping (GIS or other) and critical analysis. The final product will be presented to the class at the end of the semester. Grading will take into account time,

clarity, ingenuity, and effectiveness of the presentation (80pts). Details of this exercise will be given at the beginning of the semester.

- In-class exercises:

A number exercises will be given during class throughout the course based on the course readings listed in Canvas or other additional material presented in class. These are to further discuss current issues in the field. All written activities are due the same day during class and **cannot be made up** (50pts).

- Class participation/discussion:

There will be a number of class interactive discussions in individual or group form throughout the semester. Contribution to the class in the form of questions, comments, ideas, and the sharing of current events related to the field will be also evaluated and considered for the final grade in the class. Student participation is important to promote critical thinking and evaluate the understanding of class material (50pts).

- Attendance:

Roll will be taken sporadically. Attendance is strongly encouraged and expected. Your success in the class depends on your presence during lecture and class activities. Missing lectures can cause missing of information and may lead to failing the course.

Failure to take any exam and complete the term paper will result in a failing grade regardless of other completed work.

[University Policy S06-4](http://www.sjsu.edu/senate/docs/S06-4.pdf) (<http://www.sjsu.edu/senate/docs/S06-4.pdf>) states that “There shall be an appropriate final examination or evaluation at the scheduled time in every course, unless the course is on the official List of Courses in which a final is optional.”

Assignments and Grade Break-down

Exams (4 partial tests, 50 points each)	200	40%
Term paper (proposal, sources)	120	24%
Group project	80	16%
In-class exercises	50	10%
Class participation	50	10%
Total	500	100%

Below are basic guidelines for grading. Additional criteria may apply depending on assignments. Letter grades will be assigned based on score percentages, as follows:

Grading is as follows:

A	B	C	D	F
97-100% = A+	87-89% = B+	77-79% = C+	67-69% = D+	Below 60% = F
93-96% = A	83-86% = B	73-76% = C	63-66% = D	
90-92% = A-	80-82% = B-	70-72% = C-	60-62% = D-	

IMPORTANT: Read the syllabus, familiarize yourself with Canvas, and keep up with the reading. Your presence in class is very important, if you miss a day you are responsible to get the notes from a classmate. If you have any questions or issues do not hesitate to contact me or see me during office hours. Do not wait too long to communicate if you are having problems in class or with the class material. Your success in the class depends on your understanding of the material and completing the assignments on time. I strongly encourage you to reach me through email or in person for any questions you may have that are not already addressed in the syllabus or Canvas.

Classroom Protocol:

- **Student participation and attendance is essential** for academic success. Students are expected to attend class. Students are encouraged to attend class regularly since material presented and discussed in the classroom may be additional to the information presented in the assigned textbook.
- **Arriving late and leaving early is not acceptable** unless there is an exceptional circumstance or has been previously arranged with the instructor.
- Laptops are only permitted for note taking and for specific in-class exercises, and only under the specific approval of the instructor. Any other electronic devices need to be off during class. Activities such as texting, surfing the web, chatting, or emailing during class are disruptive and constitute disrespectful behavior towards the instructor and other students. Please be courteous and respectful.
- **All assignments are due the date marked in the class schedule** unless the date has been officially changed by the instructor. **All written assignments are to be submitted through “Turnitin” in Canvas or as indicated by the instructor.** **Make-up exams** will be given only if 1) you know in advance that you are unable to attend due to an important and verifiable reason and have arranged in advance with me an alternative date prior to its scheduled date, 2) if any reason arises beyond your control you need to notify me before class by email and provide a verifiable reason (note from physician/nurse, etc.) for the absence. Only students with a valid documented excuse will be able to take a make-up a test. **Unexcused late written assignments** will be subject to a 3% penalty per day and not accepted after one week from the original due date.
- **Students may not leave the room during an examination.** This will be an indication to the instructor that the student has completed the exam and it will be collected without further opportunity to continue.
- **All lectures and course materials, including exams, assignments, quizzes, handouts, and exercises, are copyrighted and may not be distributed without written permission from the instructor.**
- Discussions of controversial topics can become emotional. Such discussion demands respect and intellectual honesty toward and between fellow students, instructor, and from instructor toward students. Personal attacks on individuals holding non-conventional/controversial ideas will not be tolerated.

- Students are encouraged to ask questions before, during, and after class and to take full advantage of scheduled office hours or to make appointments.

University Policies

Per University Policy S16-9, university-wide policy information relevant to all courses, such as academic integrity, accommodations, etc. will be available on Office of Graduate and Undergraduate Programs' [Syllabus Information web page](http://www.sjsu.edu/gup/syllabusinfo) at <http://www.sjsu.edu/gup/syllabusinfo>

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Spring 2017, Course Schedule

Schedule is subject to change with fair notice made available from the instructor by email and class announcements.

Table 1 Course Schedule

Week	Date	Topics, Readings, Assignments, Deadlines
1	Jan 26	Module 1: Introduction. What is Archaeology? Why we study the past? Prehistory, history. Epistemology. Reading: Fagan 1. Feder 2.
2	Jan 31, Feb 2	Science and pseudoscience. The scientific method. Frauds and hoaxes. Basic archaeological tools. Reading: Fagan 1. Feder 1, 3, 4, 11.
3	Feb 7, 9	Module 2: Human origins and migrations. Neandertals. (Video) Environmental change. Spread of <i>Homo sapiens</i> Reading: Fagan 2-5. Assignment: Ex # 1 Neandertals
4	Feb 14, 16	Module 3: Intensification and social complexity. Global plant and animal domestication: First farmers. Reading: Fagan 7-9, 13 [partial] Assignment: Test 1 (Tuesday)
5	Feb 21, 23	Global plant and animal domestication: early cities. Megaliths. Reading: Fagan 10, 11, 13 [partial]. Feder 13 (Stonehenge). Ex # 2 Beginning of agriculture
6	Feb 28, Mar 2	Module 4: Rise of complex states: SW Asia: Mesopotamia, Anatolia, Sumerian Civilization. Reading: Fagan 14, 15. Assignment: Test 2 (Tuesday)
7	Mar 7, 9	Rise of complex states: SW Asia: Mesopotamia, Anatolia, Sumerian Civilization.
8	Mar 14, 16	Rise of complex states: SE Asia: Indus Valley: Harappa. Reading: Fagan 17 Assignment: Ex # 3 Forum Day: Dog domestication
9	Mar 21, 23	Rise of complex states: Egypt: Nile Valley. Reading: Fagan 16. Feder 10. Assignment: Term paper proposal/citations due (Th)
10	Mar 28, 30	Spring recess

Week	Date	Topics, Readings, Assignments, Deadlines
11	April 4, 6	Mediterranean world: Troy, Minoans, Mycenae. Lost Atlantis. (Video) Reading: Fagan 19, 20. Feder 8, 9. Assignment: Ex # 4 Forum Day: Atlantis
12	April 11, 13	Module 5: First Americans. Megafauna extinction. Reading: Fagan 5, 13 [partial]. Feder 5. Assignment: Test 3 (Tuesday)
13	April 18, 20	Complex societies in Mesoamerica. Olmec, Teotihuacan, Maya, Aztec. (Video) Reading: Fagan 21. Feder 13 (Maya). Assignment: Ex # 5 The Maya
14	April 25, 27	Complex societies in South America. Incas and their ancestors: Chavin, Paracas, Nasca. Reading: Fagan 22 Assignment: Term papers due (no exemptions) (Thursday)
15	May 2, 4	Complex societies in South America. Incas. Reading: Fagan 22
16	May 9, 11	Complex societies in North America: The Southwest, Moundbuilders, California. (Video). Reading: Fagan 13 [partial]. Feder 7.
17	May 16	Assignment: Presentations. Group report due.
Final Exam	May 18 (Thursday)	14:45-17:00